

PENDING CLAIMS

1. A device comprising a housing sized for carrying in a user's pocket and including:  
a transducer to receive ambient audio and to output electrical signals corresponding thereto;  
a watermark detector coupled to the transducer for producing payload information;  
a memory storing user identification information; and  
an interface that receives at least some of both the payload information and the user identification information for transmission to a relay station.
2. The device of claim 1 in which the interface is a wireless interface.
3. The device of claim 1 including an alphanumeric display.
4. The device of claim 1 including a keypad.
5. A method comprising:  
receiving audio at a device;  
discerning from the audio a plural-bit audio ID;  
obtaining a user ID from a memory in the device;  
transmitting at least portions of both the audio ID and the user ID to a location remote from said device.
6. The method of claim 5 in which the audio ID comprises a Digital Object Identifier.
7. The method of claim 5 that further comprises receiving the audio by a microphone.
8. The method of claim 7 that further comprises discerning at least two IDs from the audio, one being said audio ID, another being an ID corresponding to an environment in which the device is located.
9. In a method of steganographically encoding audio with a plural-bit binary watermark payload, an improvement wherein the watermark payload comprises a Digital Object Identifier.
10. A method comprising generating a noise-like signal having a plural-bit location identifier encoded therein, and airing said signal through at least one loudspeaker in an environment, said aired signal being generally indiscernible by human listeners present in said environment.

11. A device comprising a housing sized for carrying in a user's pocket and including:  
a transducer to receive ambient audio and to output electrical signals corresponding thereto to the input of a processing system;  
a memory storing user identification information; and  
an interface coupled to an output of the processing system for receiving an identifier therefrom, and also coupled to the memory for receiving at least some of the user identification therefrom, for transmission to a relay station.

12. The device of claim 11 in which the interface is a wireless interface.

13. The device of claim 11 including an alphanumeric display.

14. The device of claim 11 including a keypad.

15. A method comprising:  
receiving audio at a device;  
providing the audio to a processing system;  
receiving from the processing system an audio ID;  
obtaining a user ID from a memory in the device;  
transmitting at least portions of both the audio ID and the user ID to a location remote from said device.

16. The method of claim 15 in which the audio ID comprises a Digital Object Identifier.

17. The method of claim 15 that further comprises receiving the audio by a microphone.

18. The method of claim 17 that further comprises receiving from the processing system at least two IDs corresponding to the audio, one being said audio ID, another being an ID corresponding to an environment in which the device is located.

19. A cellular telephone comprising:  
a microphone for sensing audio, the microphone being coupled to a processor input to provide audio data corresponding to the sensed audio thereto;  
a wireless interface coupled to a processor output for receiving an audio ID therefrom corresponding to the sensed audio, and for transmitting at least a portion of the audio ID to a remote site;

the wireless interface also serving to receive data relating to the sensed audio from the remote site; and

a display for presenting at least some of said received data relating to the sensed audio to a user.

20. The telephone of claim 19, further including a processor that derives an audio ID from the audio data.

21. The telephone of claim 20 in which the processor steganographically decodes the audio data to yield the audio ID.

22. The telephone of claim 19 wherein the received data includes data representing a song title, wherein the telephone permits identification of songs its microphone senses.

23. The device of claim 3 in which the interface also receives data related to the ambient audio from the relay station, the alphanumeric display serving to present at least certain of said received data to a user of the device.

24. The device of claim 23 wherein the received data includes data representing a song title, wherein the device permits identification of a song sensed by the transducer.

25. The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
responsive to said transmission, receiving data from the remote location, the received data relating to said audio; and  
presenting at least some of the received audio on a display.

26. The method of claim 25 in which the received data includes data representing a song title, and the method includes presenting said song title on the display.